

GEOGRAPHICAL PECULIARITIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

The following collection of geographical peculiarities about the United States embodies many unique facts which are well worth remembering.

One day while I was riding across Texas several of the passengers on the train began talking about the gigantic size of the Lone Star State. One gentleman said: "A novel way to demonstrate the enormity of this great Commonwealth is to spread out a map of the United States, stretch a string across Texas the longest way. Upon placing one end of your measure on Chicago, you will find that the other end will extend into either the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico." Try this experiment to satisfy yourself.

The two largest counties in the United States are Custer County, Mont., and San Bernardino County, Cal. Each of these is a little more than 20,000 square miles in extent, and the four States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Delaware, and New Jersey could be put inside the boundaries of either of them. The smallest county in the Union is Bristol County, R. I., which has only twenty-five square miles. The county in the United States having the largest population is New York, which has more than two million people in it. At the time of the last census Bailey County, Tex., which is about as large as Rhode Island, had only four inhabitants.

The longest block in any American city is located in Watertown, N. Y. This municipal freak is a row of business houses nearly five squares long without a break in it. It contains the offices and stores of 145 different firms, forty-five tenants, and a hotel with eighty-five rooms. The total valuation of the property in this monster block is almost a million dollars.

The longest street in the United States, and in the world as well, is Western avenue, Chicago. This remarkable thoroughfare is exactly twenty-two miles long. Its nearest rival is Halsted street, also in Chicago, which is but two-thirds of a mile shorter. Halsted street is so much more closely built up that it is usually spoken of as the longest street in the world. By traversing its length one may see all the outward indications of the varying phases of American life, from the hovels of outcast sin to the gilded palaces of porkpacking millionaires. Interspersed with the native Americans on this one street are six distinct colonies where the people speak other languages than English; namely, Germans, Italians, Russian Jews, Bohemians, Poles, and Greeks. Halsted street is crossed over and under by twenty railroads. It is estimated to be the chief business center and lounging place for 175,000 people—more than there are in any one of four of our States—viz: Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, or Wyoming.

About fifty miles from Durango, Colo., there is a point where four States corner. At this place, by stepping a few feet in either direction, one can walk in four different Commonwealths in as many seconds. These States are Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona. A nearly parallel case is at Harpers Ferry, where the trains stop a few minutes to allow the passengers to alight and enjoy a view which permits them to look into three States—Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The highest and lowest elevations in this country are in California, within one hundred miles of each other. The loftiest is Mount Whitney, 14,500 feet high, and the lowest is Death Valley, about 60 feet below the level of the sea. Two oceans pass in Yellowstone Park, is so named because whenever there is a shower in the vicinity and a certain small creek overflows, its waters spread out over the edge of the continental divide and pass into tributaries of rivers, part of which flow to the Atlantic and the other to the Pacific Ocean.

There are a number of cases where unusual situations have developed in cities that happened to be divided by State lines. These oddities are the result of differences in law. The boundary between Texas and Arkansas runs along the main street of Texarkana, and formerly, when a fight occurred on one side of the street, the combatants merely had to cross over to the other sidewalk to be out of the jurisdiction of the authorities governing the Territory where the disturbance had taken place. The two sides of Texarkana did not develop equally, because the administration of one State was more enterprising than the other.

Bristol is located on the State line between Tennessee and Virginia. One of these States has a regulation preventing colored people from occupying the same street car seats with whites, and the other has not, consequently the colored people have merely to stay on one side of the car, on the boundary street, to sit where they please. The dividing line between Missouri and Kansas is State street, in Kansas City. Missouri is wet and Kansas is dry, so one side of that particular avenue is literally lined with "first" and "last" chance saloons. This locality is supposed to have been the birthplace of this original form of saloon advertisements.

North Dakota has a prohibition law and Minnesota has not. The Red River of the North is the boundary, and it separates the two towns of Fargo and Moorhead. Each saloonkeeper in Moorhead has a little backdoor, and these vehicles are sent for any one on the other side of the river who wants a drink. When the citizen of Fargo begins to have a dry feeling in his throat he merely telephones the bartender who keeps his favorite brand of liquor, and lo and behold, he is given a free ride both ways for the price of his drink! Such enterprise is certainly novel, if nothing else.

Undoubtedly the most extraordinary boundary complications are those resulting from what are known as the international stores. These places are scattered all along the line between the United States and Canada from Vancouver to New Brunswick. Most of them are maintained with the intention of evading the laws of both countries, especially in the sale of spirituous liquors. One of the most noted of these is located near Fort Covington. The boundary line runs diagonally through the store and splits the bar right half two. When a customer appears, the bartender sees the bottle on his side of the boundary line, and the patron draws it across the counter, thereby taking it out of the country, which relieves the bartender of any fault. The proprietor of this place is a genial fellow, who has been conducting his business for twenty years without interruption. In order to secure a conviction, the government making the prosecution must have an accurate survey made, and prove beyond doubt just the exact spot where each man stood and where each bottle was placed. That this is almost an impossibility the governments of both countries have found to their sorrow on several occasions.

The goods on the shelves of the store are kept on the side belonging to the country where they are bought. In the course of a day hundreds of dollars' worth of merchandise is disposed of, part from Canada and part from America. The proprietor commands a large trade and secures a greater profit than ordinary merchants doing business on either side of the line. He does not insist upon his customers telling him where they are from, merely requiring that they pay cash and take their purchases away with them.

Little attempt is made by the officials to stop the traffic, for the reason that it is almost impossible to prove just where the goods were bought. A variation of one or two inches in where a customer was standing would change the whole status of any given case. However, there was one occasion when the Canadian government secured a conviction. A careless clerk left a can of American spices on

Daniel O'Connell Maloney, Ally.

BY M. J. PHILLIPS.

Attired for the opera, Morgan Tremaine stepped into the elevator at the twelfth floor of the Alameda, where he had his apartments.

"Good evening, Daniel O'Connell Maloney," he said gravely to the knocker-bellied and freckled elevator boy.

Daniel O'Connell grinned cheerfully and whistled through a gap in his front teeth by way of reply. They were sworn friends, the two.

At the tenth floor the car stopped and the door slid back. Tremaine removed his hat ceremoniously. Mrs. Alderton Ten Eyke, also theaterward bound, large and determined in appearance, marched in. At sight of the young attorney she sniffed, a slight, lady-like, well-bred sniff, but nevertheless a sniff. Miss Marjorie Ten Eyke, young and slender, dark-eyed and lovely, followed her mother. She did not look at Tremaine, but the faintest hint of added color appeared for a moment in her smooth cheeks. Arthur Benecor, caressing a fiercely-upturned mustache, which emphasized his sparse five feet, brought up the rear. Sixty-five inches are not impressive, but \$100,000 for every inch of it is rather a good average, which the brilliant Mrs. Ten Eyke fully appreciated.

So did Tremaine, with a hungry glance at his lovely former fiancée. When one is a struggling lawyer, just beginning to see light ahead after a two years' battle with callous New York, one gives due consideration to a half dozen "millions," especially when the other fellow has them.

"Two months of it," mused Tremaine, mournfully, despite his jaunty bearing, when he had reached the street. "Two months without a look, or a nod, or a smile—because I danced too much with that little Rivers girl! I was a fool to do it, and a fool to quarrel over it with Mrs. Ten Eyke on the lookout for Mamma every minute. In her eyes I am a 'briefless barrister,' as the English boys say. And little Benecor isn't a man; he's just a bank-and-a-mustache. Marjorie can't like the fellow. Still, constant pressure will have its effect sooner or later. If only something would come up to break the ice," and Tremaine got so interested in imagining perilous situations for the fair Marjorie, with himself as the rescuing hero, that he walked three squares beyond his theater.

The next morning he overslept and rushed to the elevator with an important engagement almost due.

"In a hurry, D. O. C. Maloney," he admonished the youth at the controller. "I'm so late now I haven't time to speak your full name."

Daniel O'Connell grinned, and imitated a steam calliope by whistling shrilly through the gap in his teeth. With apparent carelessness, he consulted the indicator-board. There was no one waiting to descend. Stealthily he fumbled with the levers—swish!

The car dropped fifty feet like a dead weight before Tremaine could move a muscle. Gasping for breath, of which the swift descent deprived him, he pictured an awful death when the car should strike the bottom of the shaft. But the mad rush was checked as suddenly as it had begun, and the elevator finished its journey to the ground floor at a pace approved by all sensible and well-regulated lifts.

A glimpse of Daniel O'Connell's grinning face in the mirror made all clear. "You young rascal!" ejaculated the lawyer, as he caught his breath, "you did that on purpose!"

"Well," retorted the boy, skipping nimbly out of reach, as he threw the door open, "you said you were in a hurry!" Ten minutes later the pedestrians on Sixty-fourth street were much edified to see a good-looking young man stop suddenly, slap his thigh resoundingly, and laugh aloud. Thereat a fat policeman hastily came over in a somewhat fat mind the list of those "wanted" at headquarters that day. A newsboy on the wing paused long enough to shout "bugs" before he swooped on again. To all of which Tremaine, joyously absorbed in a great idea, paid not the slightest attention.

His high spirits were mysteriously diminished, however, when Daniel O'Connell, in an endeavor to outdo previous calliope performances, almost blew a tooth out. His small chest puffed like a pouter-pigeon as he laid a crisp five-dollar note in the lap of his mother.

the Canadian side of the counter for a minute while he turned his back to do something else. Just then a Canadian customs officer happened in and found the dutiable goods on the Queen's domain. For this one instance of carelessness on the part of his clerk, the proprietor had to pay a fine of \$20.

The twin cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis are the result of peculiar geographical conditions. They are both located in Minnesota, are within ten miles of each other, and are connected by street car lines belonging to the same company. The separation of these cities is due to the Falls of St. Anthony. St. Paul is the oldest, and was established below the falls for convenience of shippers. Minneapolis was located above them to take advantage of the water power.

The first reasons for locating the Twin Cities still predominate, one being a jobbing town and the other a manufacturing center. Minneapolis is the largest, but St. Paul is the most important from a political standpoint, especially in its relation to North Dakota. This State has two parallel lines of railroad running across it, but only one intersecting line. Consequently it is easier for North Dakota to get to St. Paul than to any part of their own State, so that city witnesses the deliberations of most of their politicians.

Mississippi is unique in that it is one of the old States of the Union which has no city. Memphis, Tenn., is the metropolis for the northern part of Mississippi, and New Orleans, La., serves a like purpose for the southern part of the State.

"Growth of the Tipping Culture." Read all about it here in to-morrow's issue of The Washington Herald.

PRELATES IN SESSION

Church in France Holds Third Plenary Council.

NEWS TO ROME BY COURIER

Reported That Bishops Will Not Trust French Telegraph System. Debate in Chamber of Deputies Develops That Stand Will Be Made for Public Instead of Private Service.

Paris, Jan. 15.—In the Chateau de la Muette, the palace where Marie Antoinette passed her first happy hours as Queen of France, nearly eighty dignitaries of the church to-day began what is called the third plenary council.

While from the viewpoint of real news the well-named chateau preserved the full significance of its designation, there issued from it a magnificent chorus of religious devotion as the prelates chanted the "Veni Creator."

A crowd of curious people assembled outside were impressed by this traditional song of devotion. The crowd saw the members of the council assemble in automobiles, carriages, and on foot, sometimes accompanied by their hosts, but the prelates only were admitted, with some secretaries, and it is announced that on Friday, at least, the chateau's walls will be as mute as their own.

Beyond the publication of the order for the council nothing has been permitted to transpire save that the council referred the chief questions before it to four committees. The first committee will consider projects of worship, the second the support of the clergy, and the third and fourth general clerical organization.

To communicate by courier, Cardinal Richard, Archbishop of Paris, was not present in the morning, but he attended in the afternoon.

It is rumored that a courier will depart daily by the way of the Belgian frontier to forward a report to Rome of each day's doings of the council. This is done rather than to trust the telegraph system of France, which is under the absolute control of the government, and all messages are subject to censorship. Even where censorship is not exercised, the government may, through its control of the lines, inform itself of what is going on.

A proposition was made by Deputy Flandin to-day looking to a modification of the law of 1881, and the chamber referred it to a special commission. The proposition is to make all public meetings, except those held in the streets, independent of public authorization, thus rendering it unnecessary to make application to the authorities for permission to hold church meetings.

Stand for Public Worship. The question of the support of aged priests also came up in the chamber, and gave rise to much discussion. M. Briand, minister of public instruction, said they would have pensions as under the law of 1905. As a side issue to the debate arose a discussion of the question of private or public worship. Abbe Jules Leandre, who is one of the representatives of the Department du Nord, declared unequivocally for the public worship. Life said that after all the church had lost she could not now, after her glorious history, consent to replace her magnificent cathedrals with insignificant chapels. This was a discussion of the question of the council of bishops will not, under any circumstances, advocate private worship.

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NO MAGAZINES FOR SCHOOLS.

Commissioner West Opposed to Expenditure of Money for Them.

Commissioner West yesterday declared himself as opposed to the expenditure of public money for supplying popular magazines for the various high schools. Under date of July 1, 1906, the board of education, through its president and secretary, made requisitions for subscriptions to magazines amounting to \$28,950, to be supplied to the various high school libraries. The commissioners questioned the necessity of this expenditure, and the president of the board of education therefor eliminated a sufficient number of periodicals to reduce the total amount to \$28,880. It is now proposed to restore the sum of the eliminated magazines, the amount of the present requisition being \$48,500.

In reference to the matter, Commissioner West said: "I do not believe it is essential to the success of the public schools to subscribe for popular magazines, but the board of education has decided the question in the affirmative and has assumed the responsibility therefor. Neither do I believe it was the intention of Congress in including the word 'periodicals' in the various clauses of contingent fund expenditures, to appropriate for supplying popular magazines to the libraries which are being maintained in the high schools at constantly increasing cost."

CITY'S PROGRESS REVIEWED

Eckington Citizens Hold Their Annual Banquet.

Congressmen on District Committee Explain How Anxious They Are to Meet Needs of the City.

More than 100 members and invited guests of the North Capitol and Eckington Citizens' Association gathered around the banquet table last night at the eleventh anniversary of the organization of that body at the Elgins House. A. R. Serven, president of the association, acted as toastmaster.

Commissioner H. B. F. Macfarland complimented the association upon its good work, and referred in an interesting manner to what had been accomplished in the way of public improvement in the past six years.

Dr. Richard Bartholdi, chairman of the House Committee on Buildings and Grounds, spoke of the great advance which Washington was making, a matter in which he declared every citizen of the country had an interest, as each felt a proprietorship in the Capital of the United States.

Washington Gardner, chairman of the subcommittee on appropriations for the District of Columbia of the House Committee on Appropriations, explained the difficulties which confront the committee in making the revenues of the municipality meet its needs.

Representative Greene, of Massachusetts, a member of the same committee, reviewed the work of the committee in behalf of education in Washington. He created something of a sensation when he stated that he had prepared a bill to read a little plain talking into the education law enacted last year, which the lawyers, the board of education, and the plain citizens of the District would understand in regard to dismissing teachers from the schools without cause and without a hearing.

Representative Greene also took the breath of his auditors when he said that his first work in Congress was a vote to annex Hawaii; that he had had a chance, and hoped to stay in Congress long enough to help vote on the annexation of Cuba.

Gen. George H. Harries, who had been made the target of much good-natured ridicule during the evening, was given an opportunity to get even with the speakers who had preceded, and to explain why it might not be wise or possible under existing conditions to drive any of the transfers on the street railways to the people of the city.

INTENDED NO EVASION.

Statement on Behalf of Royal Life Insurance Company.

Editor The Washington Herald: A recent issue of your paper contained an article concerning the action of the Superintendent of Insurance requesting an opinion from the Corporation Counsel on the propriety of the issuing of a policy by the Royal Life Insurance Company containing the name of its late president, Col. E. B. Hay, and in view of the misunderstanding conveyed by that information, and in justice to the company and its officers, we wish to state that after the death of the president of the company, and pending the election of his successor, some policies bearing the signature of the deceased president were issued by the company under the impression that it was correct and proper, and was not intended in any manner to be an evasion of any legal or moral responsibility, and had the Superintendent of Insurance called attention to the matter, as he should have done, before taking further action, the error, if any, would have been immediately corrected.

As the article also contained the erroneous statement that this company, with several others, has refused to comply with the provisions of the law, in justice to all I will state that such is not the case, but that on the contrary they have always been ready and willing to comply with the plain mandatory requirements of the law covering this class of insurance, or any reasonable interpretation thereof by the Superintendent of Insurance. But under a new interpretation of the law, radically different from a previous interpretation by the Superintendent of Insurance—which is the opinion of learned counsel was never valid, nor correct—the various insurance companies in the District of Columbia were impelled to take legal action to protect what they considered their just and equitable rights. As a majority of the local insurance companies are mutually interested in the case, which is still pending before the judiciary, it is both improper and unjust to the companies interested for the Superintendent of Insurance to make such a harsh and unjust criticism.

McNEILL & McNEILL.

Attorneys for Royal Life Ins. Co., Washington, Jan. 14.

Wants to Administer Boney Estate.

William T. Finn yesterday petitioned the Probate Court for letters of administration on the estate of Jackson Boney, who was found dead in a carriage on Long Bridge in August last, having lost his life as a result of a gunshot wound under circumstances as yet unraveled. Finn declares Boney left no real estate, but that he left \$1,000 in cash and the following heirs: Wheeler Boney, Channery Boney, Hays Boney, and Charlie Boney, all brothers and co-heirs; and Lessee Boney, sisters, all living at Rocky Mount, N. C. The three brothers—Alec, Richard, and Peter—according to years ago, and cannot be located. He also says he took care of Boney, as the same was in a helpless condition and a cripple.

I SAW YOUR AD IN THE HERALD

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